



# Trade Adjustment Assistance

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**Benefits for workers who lose their jobs due to international trade**

**Many manufacturing and timber jobs affected in Washington**

**Each trade-related layoff must be certified, then a wide array of benefits becomes available**

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program is a federal reemployment-benefit program established under the Trade Act of 1974. The program helps U.S. workers become re-employed after losing their jobs due to international trade. Certified workers may receive help looking for and relocating to a new job, as well as training for a new occupation.

## Retooling Washington's work force

The most recent trade-related dislocations in Washington have been in the manufacturing and timber sectors, where older workers occupy most of the positions, some even nearing retirement. Many workers obtained these jobs right out of high school and must think about a new career for the first time in their lives. The comprehensive benefits provided by the Trade Act make a new career a viable choice.

## Benefits

**Job-search allowance** ~ Travel costs to find a job in another community are covered at 90 percent up to \$1,250, when suitable employment isn't available in the commuting area.

**Relocation allowance** ~ Ninety percent of necessary moving expenses are covered if it's determined that there is no reasonable chance of finding a job in the commuting area and if the participant has obtained suitable employment in a new location. An additional lump-sum payment of up to \$1,250 also may be available to defray moving expenses. A relocation allowance may be granted only once.

**Training assistance** ~ A participant may attend up to 130 weeks of post-high-school training for a new occupation or industry. Approved training costs (up to a maximum of \$22,000 for a community- or technical-college degree and \$25,000 for an undergraduate or graduate degree) are covered in Washington state if funding is available.

**Income support** ~ Through a combination of unemployment insurance and Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA), participants may receive benefits for up to 130 weeks through the following:

- Unemployment insurance, generally up to 26 weeks
- Basic TRA, for 52 weeks minus weeks of unemployment insurance received.
- Additional TRA, up to 65 weeks.
- If needed to complete training, TRA for up to 13 additional weeks.

**Health-care tax credit** ~ TAA participants may receive a tax credit that covers a share of their health-insurance premiums. It can be received either as an end-of-year tax credit or as an advance payment. The IRS makes monthly payments covering 72.5 percent of a participant's insurance premiums directly to a qualified insurance plan.

**Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA)** ~ This is a wage-supplement program for workers age 50 and older who are deemed eligible. To qualify, workers must be earning a lesser wage in their new job than they were earning in their previous job. RTAA covers half the difference between their wages in the new job and the wages earned at the time they were laid off, for up to two years and a maximum of \$10,000. The worker's new wages can't exceed \$50,000 per year.

### **Application and certification**

Within one year after a layoff or company closure, a petition must be filed with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Governor's representative to be eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance. Petitions may be filed by:

- The state Dislocated-Worker Unit within the Employment Security Department,
- WorkSource or WorkSource affiliates,
- A minimum of three affected workers,
- An official of a recognized union or other employee representative, or
- The employer or management of the affected business.

The Department of Labor investigates and issues a certification or denial for the affected workers. A certification covers workers laid off up to one year before the petition is filed and for up to two years after the certification is issued. The Department of Labor notifies the state, the company and employee petitioners of its decision and publishes a notification in the Federal Register and Department of Labor's TAA on-line database

([http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/taa/taa\\_search\\_form.cfm](http://www.doleta.gov/tradeact/taa/taa_search_form.cfm))

**More than 4,700  
participants in  
FY 2010-11**

### **Results in Washington**

During the July 2010-June 2011 state fiscal year, 4,711 Washington residents received Trade Act services. Of them, 2,591 received job retraining. After receiving Trade Act services, some 69 percent of participants obtained new jobs. On average, their new jobs paid 88 percent of what they earned before being laid off.

**\$14.9 for  
FFY 2010-11**

### **Funding**

For the October 2010-September 2011 federal fiscal year, the U.S. Department of Labor allocated \$14.9 million to Washington state to pay for TAA services – down more than 13 percent from the previous year.

### **Contacts**

*Bill Tarrow, deputy communications director, 360-902-9376*  
*Bob Hughes, program specialist, 360-725-9518*